

Privileged to Serve

Speaker ... Tom Fair (am); Andy Duncan (pm)
 Announcements/Prayer..... Randy Rives
 Song Leader..... Andy D. (am); Tom F. (pm)
 Attendance.....

Morning

Scripture/Opening Prayer TBA
 Lord's Supper Randy Rives

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Closing Prayer.....

Evening

Opening Prayer
 Lord's Supper

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Closing Prayer.....

Communion Preparation

Month of September
 Month of October

Nursery Attendant; Backup

September 19Lara King; Katie Agan
 September 26Katie Agan; Angela Duncan

Wednesday Evening – September 15, 2021

Prayer/Announcements.....
 Song Leader.....
 Devotional.....

Service Times

SUNDAY

Bible Study..... 9:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship..... 10:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study..... 6:00 p.m.

Elders

ANDY DUNCAN (662) 416-2222
TOM FAIR (601) 681-8293

Deacons

LAMAR KING (601) 604-2656
 BUILDING/GROUNDS

RANDY RIVES..... (601) 513-4785
 EDUCATION & WORSHIP

ALBERT ST. CLAIR (601) 626-7815

Works Supported

Robert Martin
Stacey Ferguson
 South Pacific Missions
Pine Vale Children's Home
 Corinth, Mississippi

Attendance Last Week

Sunday Bible Class	cancelled
Sunday Morning Worship	27
Sunday Morning via Live-Stream	*
Sunday Evening Worship	8
Sunday Evening via Live-Stream	*

Wednesday Bible Study 17

Contributions & Other Income

Contribution Last Week \$ 1,523.00

*Figures Unavailable



September 19, 2021 *Meridian Messenger* Welcome Visitors!

THE CHRISTIAN GRACES ♠ part 4

“ADD ...TO KNOWLEDGE TEMPERANCE”

Introduction: In order to be “partakers of the divine nature”, we must add temperance to knowledge. The Greek word means “strength”, and refers to the mastery over self, or “self-control”. It is not merely controlling self, but controlling self as directed by the word of God. It involves both moderation and abstinence, but also involves much more. “The various powers bestowed by God upon man are capable of abuse; the right use demands the controlling power of the will” (Vine’s, p. 1137). The demands of righteousness require self-control as the proper response thereto (Acts 24:25). Knowledge is logically prior to self-control, because “the right use” of “the various powers bestowed by God upon man” depends upon our ability “to discern both good and evil” (Hebrews 5:11-14). However, “knowledge puffs up” (1 Corinthians 8:1), so self-control must be added.

THE NEED FOR TEMPERANCE

- A. It is possible, however, for this “controlling power” to be impaired or usurped by:
 1. Emotions (anger, fear, hatred, shame, grief, loneliness, worry, etc.)
 2. Social pressure (from family and/or peers)
 3. Habit-forming drugs (tobacco, alcohol, pharmaceuticals, etc.)
 4. Desires (for food, sexual intimacy, money, employment, job and/or political advancement, etc.)
 5. Bad habits involving the tongue (lying, cursing, offending, gossiping)
- B. If we are to maintain self-control, therefore, we must strengthen the “power of the will”.
 1. This is done by sheer determination, or “giving all diligence” (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).
 2. Each athletic contestant knows that only one person can win each event.
 3. When Paul says, “So run, that ye may obtain”, he seems to be implying that we ought to live our lives as if only one person were to going to make it to heaven.
 4. Wouldn't this result in a great deal more diligence on the part of every person?

THE STRUGGLE FOR TEMPERANCE

- A. It is a struggle between the flesh and the Spirit.
 1. The fleshly desires simply cry out for fulfillment, the Spirit tells us how these desires may legitimately be fulfilled (Galatians 5:16-23).
 2. The law in our members tells us to do the very thing that the law of God tells us not to do (Romans 7:7-24).

~continued inside~